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11 December 1953

AD HOC IAC COMMITTEE (WATCH)

Minutes of Meeting Held in Director's  
Conference Room, Administration Building  
Central Intelligence Agency, on 11 December 1953

Mr. Huntington D. Sheldon  
Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. William C. Trueheart, Office of the Special Assistant,  
Intelligence. Department of State  
Brigadier General John M. Willems, Deputy AC of S, G-2,  
Department of the Army  
Captain D. T. Eller (USN), Assistant Head, Intelligence  
Branch, ONI, Department of the Navy  
Brigadier General Millard Lewis, Deputy Director Intelli-  
gence, Headquarters USAF, United States Air Force  
Dr. Charles H. Reichardt, Intelligence Division, Atomic  
Energy Commission  
Captain E. T. Layton (USN), Joint Intelligence Group, The  
Joint Staff  
Mr. Meffert W. Kuhrtz, Special Agent, Liaison Section,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

ALSO PRESENT

Colonel George R. Humdt, United States Air Force  
Colonel Howard D. Kenzie, United States Air Force  
Mr. Samuel S. Rockwell, United States Air Force

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Acting Secretary

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The CHAIRMAN asked if there were any comments on the minutes of the Sixth meeting as distributed.

DR. REICHARDT asked that paragraph 4 of page 5 be amended to read "The nature of AEC, and possibly also FBI activities, suggested that liaison be provided rather than assignment of full-time representatives to the Working Group."

MR. TRUEHEART raised the question of the connotations of the Chairman's statement as recorded in paragraph 5 of page 1, saying that he believed the Committee's acceptance of the JIG proposal on dissemination had not meant to include any all-source implications.

The CHAIRMAN said that it had been his intention to voice a thought rather than suggest the proposed paragraph included an implicit provision for all-source reporting. He suggested his statement be amended to read "that he presumed that the proposed paragraph was broad enough to cover all-source reporting, as will be discussed later."

He asked if there were any additional comments, and, receiving none, stated that the minutes stood approved as amended.

He determined that it was the sense of the Committee that no meetings be held during the weeks of 21 and 28 December.

He recalled the Ad Hoc Committee's previous discussion of the proposed definition of "paramilitary", and said that, on review, he was unable to produce a substantially different definition. He remarked that further consideration had resulted in a strengthening of his opinion that the first sentence was unnecessary, and that the text's second sentence reflected what was wanted. He asked if the committee could agree to the elimination of the first sentence.

GENERAL LEWIS tentatively agreed and said that, although close, he believed it was still unpolished, and volunteered to draft a revision for presentation to the Committee at its next meeting.

MR. TRUEHEART asked if the Committee could go back to the dissemination paragraph adopted at the previous meeting.

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The CHAIRMAN remarked that as all the conclusions that had been reached to date were tentative in nature, reconsideration of any portion of them was to be expected.

MR. TRUEHEART then suggested that an additional sentence be added, which read "to indicate to the IAC from its continuing evaluation of current developments any need it may detect for initiating or revising a national or departmental intelligence estimate."

The CHAIRMAN asked if departmental intelligence estimates were currently available to the Watch Committee, and if it would be proper for the Committee to bring departmental estimates to the attention of the IAC.

CAPTAIN LAYTON said he thought that the departmental aspects of the proposed addition should be deleted, and added that if the remainder were not modified somewhat it might undesirably increase the scope of the Watch Committee functions. He suggested that the sentence be changed to read "To recommend as appropriate to the IAC-----".

The CHAIRMAN asked if the sentence in question were an aspect of dissemination, or a separate question, one more related to the duties of the Working Group.

CAPTAIN LAYTON suggested that as an additional paragraph under "Functions," it would give a desirably clear picture that the Watch Committee is not involved in preparing estimates.

The CHAIRMAN said that he thought the Working Group would consider it a must to be current on National Estimates, but that it would not be a function of the Watch Committee per se to make estimates.

CAPTAIN ELLER said that the Committee should make use of National Estimates and, while noting obsolescence, should not be held responsible for making such observations.

GENERAL LEWIS said that he thought the sense of the sentence should be included as the guideline but that its inclusion must be qualified to prevent the danger which had concerned the Committee.

MR. TRUEHEART said that he did not feel too strongly about the necessity to include the sentence being discussed, and that he saw the danger of it leading the Watch Committee into an estimative function. He asked if any one of the Committee members believed it necessary for the Watch Committee formally to assign itself the task of reviewing National Estimates.

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CAPTAIN ELLER said he believed some Federal group needed to be assigned this review function, but that it would be quite a job for the Watch Committee to take on in addition to its basic responsibilities.

CAPTAIN LAYTON suggested that it would certainly be more appropriate to some other group or agency.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the footnote on page 1, (pertaining to the mission) might be a proper vehicle for including a simple statement that the Watch Committee was not to become involved in estimative processes.

MR. TRUEHEART said that he would withdraw his proposal, in order to derive a clear cut statement for presentation at the next meeting.

The CHAIRMAN asked whether the Committee should consider the organizational features of the Working Group first or address itself to deriving a statement of functions for that body.

GENERAL WILLEMS said he had prepared a list of responsibilities which he believed were necessary for the Watch Committee to carry out its mission. He then read the following:

"The Watch Committee will maintain an Indications Center which will:

a. continuously screen all pertinent intelligence information received by all national intelligence agencies, for indications related to the Watch Committee functions.

b. request promptly an early evaluation and analysis of all reported indications from the intelligence agency or agencies best qualified to deal with the field of intelligence to which the indications belongs.

c. arrange for a systematic screening by all national intelligence Agencies of intelligence information received by them by any means for the purpose of promptly extracting, evaluating, analyzing and forwarding to the Indications Center all indications of Soviet-Communist intentions relating to hostilities.

d. maintain in readily usable form a complete and integrated file of all available intelligence indications of Soviet-Communist preparations for attack.

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e. Maintain wall maps, charts and other display material which will most effectively illustrate and interpret graphically the current situation and long-range trends with respect to Soviet-Communist preparations for offensive action.

f. Coordinate with the individual members of the Watch Committee the selection of indications for consideration by the Committee in regular and special meetings.

g. Prepare draft reports of the Watch Committee meetings and coordinate the review of such draft reports by the participating agencies.

h. Coordinate the reproduction and distribution of the Watch Committee reports in final form.

i. Prepare plans for submission to the Watch Committee for systematizing, energizing, and coordinating the world-wide collection by U. S. agencies of indications of Soviet-Communist preparations for attack."

GENERAL LEWIS remarked that the statement of functions presented a concept with which he was in agreement and that it contained a good deal of desired substance.

MR. TRUEHEART remarked that those functions seemed to cover all the aspects stated or implied by the mission.

The CHAIRMAN asked, in relation to the manning required, how much work would be accomplished in the Center.

GENERAL WILLEMS said that the wording of the first function could mean screening was to be accomplished within the parent agency but that it could mean equally that copies of all information received in the community would be transmitted to the Center.

MR. TRUEHEART suggested that the definition of "pertinence" was at issue and that a generous take of raw data was desirable.

GENERAL LEWIS remarked that screening criteria must be broad enough to secure all data clearly pertinent to the mission and additionally such other data as could be related thereto.

The CHAIRMAN said he visualized the Indications Center making a tentative evaluation of an item of information which it considered significant at the same time the organization having substantive responsibility

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conducted a detailed analysis of the same data and that the fruits of the latters' interpretation would come to the Indications Center for use in drafting the tentative conclusions to be presented to the Watch Committee for its subsequent deliberations.

GENERAL WILLEMS said that in practice the Indications Center would prepare a rapid preliminary evaluation, going back to the home office for final interpretation.

GENERAL LEWIS remarked that although this suggested a degree of formality it probably would be done in a manner which was consistent with effecting a maximum economy of time.

GENERAL WILLEMS suggested that it might help if agency representatives could have posted in their message centers a list of items which would come directly to them in the Indications Center.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that there would have to be a direct channel between the Indications Center and parent organizations and asked if it were true that all IAC components now have Indications staffs.

GENERAL LEWIS answered affirmatively.

DR. REICHARDT said that there was no such group in the Atomic Energy Commission.

CAPTAIN ELLER said that the indications function had been formalized in ONI by 12 substantively competent officials meeting weekly to discuss items brought to them by branch and section analysts, and that the results of these weekly deliberations were presented to him for transmittal to the present Watch Committee.

GENERAL WILLEMS commented that the effect of individual agency pre-Watch meetings was to limit the flow of information to the Secretariat of the present Watch Committee. He added that he felt this was dangerous.

The CHAIRMAN agreed and commented that the whole approach must be to focus analytical attention on all pertinent information so that the Chairman of the Watch Committee could be completely informed. He opined that this was fundamental to the adequate discharge of the mission of the Watch Committee.

GENERAL WILLEMS brought out that an item which might appear valueless to the analysts of one department might be of extreme significance when subjected to joint consideration, that is, consideration by analysts from more than one agency or department.

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CAPTAIN LAYTON remarked that the flow of information into the Defense Department and NSA was so great that it would be impossible to scrutinize each item received, but on the other hand, if only such material as was clearly of an intelligence nature were to be forwarded to the Watch Committee than the Watch Committee would be delegating some of its authority to individuals who lacked the required degree of competence.

The CHAIRMAN determined that it was the sense of the meeting that there needed to be a system for ensuring that the Indications Center received from the total amount of data available within the community all information which was pertinent to its mission, and that while this presented many difficulties it was not an insurmountable problem.

He suggested that the Committee could not profitably go further until each member had examined in detail the list of functions proposed by General Willems. He asked if any member of the Committee had any further questions.

In the absence of any additional comments he suggested that further discussion of the proposed functions and related organizational problems should await study of General Willems proposal.

CAPTAIN LAYTON said he would like to raise the question of what had been meant in earlier committee discussions by a "world-wide Watch system".

The CHAIRMAN replied that the idea had been raised by G-2 in the first meeting and that the principles involved had been echoed by General Lewis. He said the idea behind the words was to obtain maximum warning and therefore it seemed desirable to tie all available resources together.

GENERAL LEWIS said that while he had never envisaged a violation or interruption of the JCS chain of command, he believed that integration of the individual efforts of the several agencies concerned would be mutually desirable and would certainly find active proponents both here and abroad. He suggested that the desired cooperation might be achieved by inviting delegates from each of the JCS commands to a conference on the Watch problem.

The CHAIRMAN said that such a conference could result in stimulating contributions from resources not now watching as well as increasing the effectiveness of those just emerging from the planning stage, mentioning ELINT specifically.

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GENERAL WILLEMS remarked that present relations with FECOM were ideal in that Washington received a cable summary of the deliberations of that command's Watch Committee in time for consideration at the weekly meetings here.

CAPTAIN LAYTON pointed out that this was entirely a voluntary relationship and would have to characterize any future arrangements between the Watch Committee and a command of the JCS.

MR. TRUEHEART said that perhaps the Joint Weeka might be a usable vehicle for alerting the field to the Watch problem and soliciting their cooperation.

GENERAL WILLEMS cautioned the committee that if the Weeka were to become a "Watching" vehicle its terms of reference would have to be expanded to include a paragraph requiring submission of indications information and comments.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 P. M.

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